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State Representative Jared Moskowitz applauds House vote of HB 851

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. -- The Florida House of Representatives has unanimously approved House Bill 851 by Representative Jared Moskowitz (D-Coral Springs) that aims to clamp down on animal cruelty. The legislation, which cleared the House on a 118-0 vote Wednesday, is supported by animal-rights' groups, including the Humane Society of the United States and U.S. Humane Society and ASPCA, the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.

"I believe that if we can't agree in the Florida Legislature on how to treat domesticated animals then what can we agree on?" said Representative Moskowitz. "I applaud my colleagues in the House of Representatives for voting favorably on this bill and I hope to see its swift passage in the Florida Senate. I believe this legislation gives a voice to the voiceless and defense to the defenseless."

HB 851 aims to crack down on dog fighting, increases penalties for animal abuse and bans the artificial coloring of animals younger than three months of age. Additionally, the bill allows local governments to use animal cruelty fines for Animal shelters.

Representative Moskowitz serves Florida House District 97, which includes the Broward County communities of Coral Springs, Tamarac, Sunrise and Plantation.